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ADDRESS BEFORE THE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION  
IN CONNECTION WITH THE MCGILL  
NORMAL SCHOOL

BY MISS ROBINS, B.A., PRESIDENT.

In travelling from Edinburgh to Carlisle by lightning express, sixty miles an hour, the towns along the route flashing by with indescribable speed, all that I could do was to hold on to the seats with both hands. Have you not felt a similar sensation in your work, the pressure of each day's task being so great that all that was possible was to hold on, no time to examine whither you were going? You had just to trust to the system under which you were working to bring you safely through. Let us make our association meetings little stopping places along the teachers' roads, where we may review our position and form plans and examine ideals for the rest of the journey. To-night let us look for a while at the most important feature in the school-room. More worthy of regard than the chalk on the blackboard, or even the books and the teacher, is the child. Let us examine him from one point of view only—the side of *character*. Dr. Arnold said of mere cleverness, "It is more revolting to me than helpless imbecility seeming to be almost like the spirit of Mephistopheles." To increase mental strength and dwarf moral power is educational madness.

I saw children punished for faults that their ancestors ought to have been punished for and praised for qualities